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On the Cover
Shopping at the Mast
Store in Valle Crucis
has been a holiday
tradition since 1883.
(Photo courtesy of
Mast General Store)

See page 15 for guide.

Touchstone Energy cooperatives are serious about electoral politics

There are days when you see your government supporting your needs and protecting your freedoms. There are other days, however, when you feel that the servant of government on the other end of the phone only exists to remind you why the doctor has prescribed blood pressure medicine, and you better take it.

There are days you may think the local sheriff fancies himself to be the “be all end all,” and on other days you appreciate local crime control and emergency services. Or you may think that state policy is determined only by people who have political connections, and then you notice how helpful someone at a state agency is in addressing a concern vital to your family’s well-being.

Our system of government may not always be the most efficient, but it’s the best one there is. Think about places in the world where citizens have no choice in how their nation and communities are run. Unfortunately, there are too many examples to list here. In many places, average citizens cannot participate at all in government, unless they can afford to buy themselves into it or unless the whole thing is a sham.

In the United States, citizens are assured a voice in government at all levels. And the strongest voice we have is at the polls. We all should go to our local polling place on Nov. 5 and vote. If you don’t know enough about the people or issues on the ballot, there’s a newspaper or a League of Women Voters or someone you trust nearby who can discuss the candidates and the ballot questions with you.

Electric cooperatives take democracy very seriously. We believe that the people who comprise the cooperative—like citizens of a town or county—should have the right to determine how the cooperative is managed and what policies it follows. Every year, cooperative members can vote for people who represent them on the organization’s board of directors. Members themselves can serve on their board, or discuss business with their elected directors and the people they hire to work for the cooperative. Membership in a cooperative, like U.S. citizenship, comes with rights and privileges. Also like citizenship, membership carries responsibilities, such as keeping yourself informed and participating as a cooperative member.



By Nelle Hotchkiss

Your cooperative’s directors, managers and employees continually keep themselves informed about the government, on the local, state and national levels. When legislation or government policy affect cooperatives and the communities we serve, we make it our business to know about it and help shape it. When people run for political office, we make a point of knowing who they are and what they stand for. We invite candidates for political office to meet our members and to tell us what they believe in. We regularly visit elected officials and the halls of government so our representatives and officials know our positions, too. And we do what we can to help elect and appoint people who we believe will serve our cooperatives and our communities most effectively.

In recent years, it’s become more important for rural communities in North Carolina to have supporters in the halls of government. Because of population shifts, rural North Carolina is losing representation in Congress and the General Assembly. Today in North Carolina, 50 percent of the state’s population resides in 15 counties.

Electric cooperatives continue to work to ensure that rural issues have a fair hearing. We closely monitor how government policies and proposals affect rural communities. We are known as strong advocates for rural residents, businesses and institutions. Your directors are known for “saying what they mean, and meaning what they say.” Politicians respect knowing where you stand and being consistent on the issues. The cooperatives work hard to do that while educating those from more urban areas about rural challenges and needs.

Once the 2002 elections are behind us, your Touchstone Energy cooperative will still be following what’s going in government at the federal, state and local level and speaking out on behalf of rural North Carolina. We’ll be in touch with the people who are elected and encourage you to be in touch as well. See you at the polls on November 5th.

Nelle Hotchkiss is a senior vice president with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Thanks for caring

We would like to express our appreciation for the outstanding manner in which Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation personnel trimmed trees and shrubbery below power lines on our property this year. Well in advance, we were notified of scheduled operations and invited to call in any questions. Mr. Harold Huffman, Mr. Dwayne Rhymer and Mr. Eric Helton took our inquiry, and arrangements were made to send out representatives. Mr. Gary Reese promptly consulted us, explained in detail the procedure, and took pains to address all of our concerns. Late this summer, the crew performed exactly as Mr. Reese promised, trimming our hedge very neatly, removing an overgrown pine tree, and leaving the grounds as neat as a pin. Our compliments to the staff and contractors for their courtesy and professionalism.

*Ingrid and Ben Mast
Sugar Grove
Blue Ridge Electric*

Heavyweight watermelon

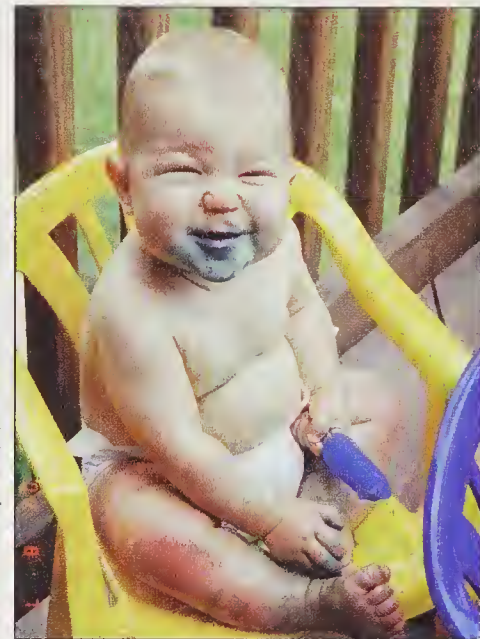


Donald Murphy grew this watermelon on his farm in Lenoir County. It won the annual prize at this summer's State Farmer's Market competition, where it officially weighed in at 231 pounds. His 8-month-old grandson Declan Kit Murphy (also shown in photo) weighed in at 17½ pounds that day. Mr. Murphy's 13-acre farm is in Pink Hill and is served by Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation. He also teaches carpentry at South Lenoir High School in Deep Run. His son, Leighton, took this photograph. Leighton also lives on the farm with his wife and son, and so does Leighton's brother with his wife and their two children. The farm is also known for its gourds, dipper gourds, tomatoes and cantaloupe.

Cecilia again

I just want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Poplstein of Huntersville for sending in that adorable picture of their granddaughter Cecilia. That has got to be the cutest baby picture of all time. Even her toes are blue!

*Ginger Richard
Lincolnton
Rutherford EMC*



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Grown-Ups Table

By James Taylor



As a boy, I liked Thanksgiving more than any other holiday, because we always had Thanksgiving dinner at my grandmother's house in Farmville. All my cousins would be there, and we could catch up on each other's lives. My brothers and sister and I had 14 cousins from Pitt, Greene and Cumberland counties, and we only got to see each other about three or four times a year.

The most special of all Thanksgivings was in 1965. With our cousins, we ranged in age from 15 to about 18 that year. As we arrived at Granny Britt's house, we felt even more special because we thought we were grown up now.

Granny Britt's house smelled of turkey cooking with all the trimmings, pies of all sorts and cakes, too. The grown-ups congregated in the kitchen for obvious reasons, while "the cousins" stayed in the living room, because we were making too much noise. We were all very happy that year. We had bright futures in front of us, but on that particular day, if we had pooled all our assets, we would not have had a dollar among us. But that was OK, because we were young and happy.

Dinner was served at about 1:30. Granny Britt had an old dining table that would seat a small army. We young'uns referred to this as The Grown-Ups Table.

All the grown-ups took their seats and so did my older cousin Fay, because she and Shelton were not too long married and considered eligible for The Grown-Ups Table. My non-grown-ups would gather around the table and reach over and around the grown-ups to get a taste of that delicious food. While dipping

a spoonful of mashed potatoes, I dropped a big dollop in Shelton's coffee. Granny Britt was very proper, and she served coffee for dinner in those days. There was so much conversation and reaching for different bowls, that to this day I don't think anyone saw what fell into Shelton's cup.

We cousins would take our full-to-the-edge plates back to the living room, where we half enjoyed our conversation and half listened to the conversation at The Grown-Ups Table, knowing that in a year or two we ourselves would be seated at that very table with the grown-ups.

It's with a sad heart that I must report that we cousins never did have the pleasure of sitting all together at The Grown-Ups Table. Little did we know on that most happy of all Thanksgivings in 1965 that it would be our last as a group. Due to things far beyond our control — military service, marriage, jobs, college and something worse — we would not have another Thanksgiving together at Granny Britt's. Most of those who were with us that day so long ago, cousins and grown-ups alike, are no longer with us, except in pleasant memories.

However bittersweet it may be, The Grown-Ups Table now sits in our dining room, through the process of inheritance. Our daughter, Stephanie, and her cousins have enjoyed Thanksgiving at that table many times. Though my wife, Sue, and I own it, I fully recognize that we are only its caretakers. One day we will pass it to our daughter and her husband, Jay, who will use it, then pass it on to their son, Landon.

May The Grown-Ups Table continue to bring happiness to all through memories of Thanksgivings past and the hope of Thanksgivings to come.

James and Sue Taylor live in Farmville and are longtime members of Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation, a Touchstone Energy cooperative.

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Touchstone Energy co-ops sponsor exhibit at Fiesta del Pueblo

Carlos Delgado (right), an employee with Piedmont EMC, and his wife, Marie, check out artwork from Mexico during the annual Fiesta del Pueblo, held in September in Orange County.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives sponsored the Cultural Exhibit at the event, the largest Hispanic festival in the state.

North Carolina enjoys one of the fastest growing and most diverse Hispanic populations in the U.S. Five percent of North Carolina residents are Hispanic. More and more of North Carolina's electric cooperatives are hiring representatives to serve Hispanic members. Carlos Delgado is a native of El Salvador. Piedmont Electric Membership is headquartered in Hillsborough.

An estimated 50,000 people attended the two-day event held at Chapel High School in Orange County. La Fiesta is a community outreach program of the nonprofit group El Pueblo, a statewide Hispanic advocacy group based in Raleigh.

Wildlife council taps EnergyUnited's Jimmy Brown

Project Habitat® has appointed Jimmy Brown, director of rights-of-way for EnergyUnited, to its advisory council. EnergyUnited is a Touchstone Energy cooperative based in Statesville and serving some 100,000 members in 19 counties.

Project Habitat is the electric utility industry's premier program for wildlife habitat conservation. It is sponsored by the BASF Vegetation Management group in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and other wildlife organizations. To be a Project Habitat member, utilities must control vegetation in a manner conducive to wildlife enhancement.

Brown was appointed to serve on the advisory council in recognition of EnergyUnited's outstanding contribution to wildlife habitat conservation.

Brown has worked in vegetation management for EnergyUnited for more than 25 years. He has been director of rights-of-way for 14 years and serves on the board of directors of the North Carolina Vegetation Management Association.

What are your U.S. Savings Bonds worth?

Do you have a box or a drawer holding old U.S. Savings Bonds?

If so, you should check how much they're worth and if they're still earning interest. If they aren't, the time has come to part with them and put your money back to work for you. That could be a substantial amount since matured savings bonds may be worth over five times their issue price.

To find out, look at the upper right-hand corner of your savings bonds and find the issue date.

Series E savings bonds issued between 1941 and November 1965 stop earning interest 40 years from their issue dates. Series E savings bonds issued starting in December 1965 stop earning after 30 years. Series EE Savings Bonds and I Bonds earn for 30 years and Series HH, for 20.

This should cover the majority of savings bonds held by most people but more information is available at the Treasury Department's savings bonds Web site, www.savingsbonds.gov.

For basic information, you can call (800) 487-2663. You can also write to Savings Bonds, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

Meter tampering is illegal

North Carolina law specifically prohibits altering, tampering with and bypassing electric meters. Persons found guilty are liable for triple the amount of losses and damages to the utility, plus fees, and the fee is greater.

Anyone using power from an altered meter violates the same law. The person in whose name the meter is installed, and the persons using the electricity, may be liable.

It is illegal for an unauthorized person to reconnect a meter after the utility has disconnected it.

It is illegal to alter or remove a load management device that your utility has installed, or to attempt to do so without written permission to remove it and the utility has not removed it within 30 days.

This law applies to gas and water meters.

It is not illegal for licensed contractors performing their usual services within the scope of their license.

This law is found in North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 14, Subchapter VI, Article 22, Section 14-151.1.



Light Lines by DonnaRee



"I thought you said these energy-efficient windows would pay for themselves in a year."

Legislature resolves double tax issue

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives in September applauded enactment of a new state law protecting electric cooperative consumers from paying local utility taxes twice.

The new law prohibits county and local municipalities from imposing their own utility franchise or privilege taxes on top of the utilities taxes North Carolina electric cooperative consumers already pay to the state. The law also restricts the governor from withholding utility franchise tax funds from the cities and counties except as a last resort to balance the state budget.

The state has traditionally collected utility taxes on behalf of the cities and counties and distributed the funds to local governments. This method allows the state's utilities to pay their taxes to one entity instead of issuing hundreds of payments to the numerous counties, cities and towns across North Carolina.

However, the state has recently withheld utility taxes to help balance the state budget. Because utility franchise and privilege taxes make up a significant revenue source for many cities and towns, 24 municipalities enacted their own additional electric utility taxes earlier this year.

"The General Assembly should be congratulated for finding a resolution that gets electric cooperative consumers out of the budgetary dispute between the state and local governments," said Nelle Hotchkiss, a senior vice president for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. "This law is a fair and equitable solution and the 27 electric cooperatives appreciate the hard work our legislators put forth to solve this problem."

"We understand the tough financial situation the state and municipalities are in," Hotchkiss said. "But the solution wasn't to tax electric cooperative consumers twice."

National groups say deregulation hasn't done much for consumers

Two major U.S. consumer groups have given mediocre reviews to attempts at restructuring the electric utility business.

Consumer's Union, which publishes Consumer Reports magazine, took a close look at "deregulation" in several industries and found that "given the failure of electricity deregulation in western states, Congress should pause before it proceeds with deregulation at the national level."

The Consumer's Union study points out that while rates have declined in some areas, the decline was attributed to conditions that existed prior to when the wholesale electricity industry was deregulated in 1992. It concludes that, so far, consumers fared better when the electricity market was regulated. The study stated, however, that the move toward restructuring has resulted in closer attention to consumer rights with regard to pricing and policies.

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) published a report entitled "Electricity Deregulation and Consumers: Lessons from a Hot Spring and a Cool Summer" which calls restructuring a failure "because the huge rate reductions that were predicted never materialized."

The CFA report said the electricity industry is "completely unsuited to the short-term commodity transactions that policymakers imposed in the late 1990s." The report advised that federal government hold off on further restructuring measures and instead devise a "workable system with a focus on the public interest."

Harnett's Future Farmers go to nationals

The Future Farmers of America Agricultural Mechanics and Career Development Team from Harnett Central High School finished first in state level competition this year and advanced to represent North Carolina at the national convention Oct. 30-Nov. 2.

Some 47,000 students will gather in Louisville, Ky., for the national convention. Team members are (from left) Graham Johnson of Fuquay-Varina, Cody Franks of Angier, Angus Strickland of Bunnlevel and Kyle Wiley of Lillington. At right is the school's FFA advisor Jody Milliron.



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You
think
THAT
was
dumb?

True stories of losing your mind

Y'all sure do a lot of dumb things.

More than 250 of these stories came in for this month's theme about "the dumbest thing I ever did." I wish we could publish more of them. The judges said they laughed and shook their heads in disbelief.

I tried thinking of a dumb thing I've done in my short life, and nothing came to mind. But the Carolina Country staff had no such problem.

Jenny Lloyd feared a tumor had set in and called the eye doctor after trying a few pairs of her usual contact lenses and noticing her eyesight getting much worse. After examining her, the doctor said she hadn't removed yesterday's pair of lenses.

Jennifer Boedart Hoey called the neighbors frantically one morning because she heard someone breaking into her house. With her neighbors' help, they found a Mylar balloon floating between the walls and a ceiling fan.

Renee Gannon routinely declined the invitation extended by her brother and his buddies to play on top of the rabbit hutch, until one day she had to try it. That day the hutch fell backward into a massive briar patch.

Karen Olson House mailed all her holiday cards without postage stamps.

Tara Verna left work one day and walked a few blocks until she paid attention to some little girls behind her who told her to pull down the skirt that had become tucked into its waistband.

Nicole Ferrari's older sister wondered about the taste of the mud pies that they were making, so Nicole ate a few and said they tasted fine.

(And I have to work with these people.)

Thanks to everyone who sent us something. See page 13 for the coming months' themes.

— Michael E.C. Gery

Asked for a brother

The dumbest thing I ever did was ask my mother for my baby brother. Unfortunately, she gave me one of the meanest little devils ever created on this earth. When he was an infant, I liked him a lot better because all he did was sleep, eat, burp, spit up and act cute. But as he became a toddler, he began to teethe and speak.

He was like a walking, talking, childlike mosquito person, who never stopped chattering gibberish, no matter night or

day. He never stopped gnawing on something, whether it was food, rubber or people. He has developed into a blond-haired, blue-eyed heathen with a mouthful of dangerously sharp teeth. He can be kind of nice to have around sometimes, but other times he can be worse than a plague in a crowd of people.

Matthew Joyner, grade 8
Atlantic Elementary
Carteret-Craven Electric

(continued on page 12)

6 in the morning and headed to our destination in our white hatchback car. When we arrived late in the evening, we chatted with my friends for a good while. At about 11:30 p.m., my son and his friend went out to get our suitcases.

I agreed that it looked like our cat, but would not believe it until we phoned my friend in Goldsboro. She said that she could not find the white cat, but the tabby cat was there. At this point, I accepted the fact that I had packed the cat!

The next problem was bringing the cat home. I could not deliberately place the cat in the suitcase and close the lid. She sat proudly between us on the ride back. I guess she was terrified that she might get packed again.

I attribute her survival to the fact that the sons who had gone to Virginia had the Samsonite suitcase and we had the softer, breathable kind of luggage. Needless to say, I had to wash all my clothes at midnight that night. Also, the hatchback car was not as airtight as another kind would have been. After all, we did stop for a meal and turned the engine and the air conditioning off.

The lesson I learned is obvious: Pack your suitcase so full that there is no space left for a cat to snuggle down for a nap.

Maggie Harder
Lillington
South River EMC

Told off a city slicker

This incident happened 57 years ago in the little town of Harlet. At that time, there was friction between students who lived in town ("city slickers") and students who lived in the country ("hicks"). City slickers did not hang out with hicks. I was a country hick and rode the second bus. One day a little first grade city slicker came back to school and got on the building. I asked her where she was going. She was going to see her teacher, Miss Covington. To this day I don't know what caused me to answer as I did, but I was not chance to harass a city slicker. Anyway, I told her Miss Covington was dead—that another teacher had put her on the floor in her room. At that moment the bus

came. I got on the bus and didn't give another thought about what I had said.

At supper, my sister, who worked at the drug store after school, told us that Miss Covington was dead. I almost choked. One person who saw the teacher on the street fainted. Others ordered flowers.

The next day two little students came to the sixth grade class looking for me. I dropped my head but was still recognized. The principal, Mrs. Tillman, lectured me, and I had to go to each of the six grades and apologize. My parents applied the "board of education" and told me the story of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." Since then, I've had a great appreciation for the truth.

Ruth Powell
Hamlet
Pee Dee EMC

Covered the electricity receptacles

The first time my husband began to paint the interior of our house, I offered to help him by masking the door hardware and the receptacles so that cleanup would be easier. After masking the door hardware with tape, I decided to place tin foil over the receptacles. As I placed tin foil over that first receptacle, the tin foil made contact with the screws that connected the wires to the receptacle. Sparks flew, smoke shot out, and I screamed as the jolt of electrical current shocked me. After my husband saw what I had done, and that nothing was hurt but my pride, and that I had received only some smoke stains on my hand, he laughed and laughed.

My husband still tells me that in our 33 years of marriage that was the dumbest thing I ever did, because he is an electrician and I am the office manager for his company, and we stress electrical safety every day.

Kathy M. Bowman
Taylorsville
EnergyUnited

Called for a ride to town

One Friday my parents went to town and left me at home. I wanted to go. They said stay home.

I walked to the mailbox, which is about one mile from my house, to catch a ride to town, which was 18 miles from where we lived. No ride came.

I then went back home and called 911 and told them that I was having chest pains and to hurry, and I gave them my address. When they arrived, I was lying on the porch acting in pain. They loaded me onto the stretcher and into the ambulance and drove off. I began thinking, "How am I going to get out of this mess when I get to town?"

They came to a stop at the light. I jumped off the stretcher and ran out the back, but they caught me. Then they took me to the hospital anyway.

Orisa Banks
Fayetteville
South River EMC

Bought new shoes

My wife and I were preparing for a second honeymoon in Hawaii in March 2001. In January, I purchased a new pair of Reebok walking shoes. Since I know that I wear a size 12, I didn't try them on.

On our first morning in Kauai, I looked at my white, unsoiled, brand new shoes. I was all set. I put the first one on and it cramped my foot. So did the second. Was I disappointed! I wore them to the county seat, Lihue, thinking they would stretch. They didn't. I bought a size 13 tennis shoe at Wal-Mart for \$15, and they fit just right.

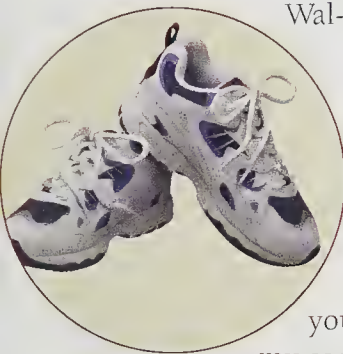
When we got home I offered the Reeboks to my son-in-law. He tried one on and said, "These aren't size 12. I wear size 12. These are mis-sized."

In May, we visited our son and his family in Memphis. He said he wore a size 10 and tried them on. They fit perfectly. I gave them to him.

About two weeks later he called and said, "Dad, you'll never believe it. I put on the shoes today without my socks and felt something in the toe." It hit me what had happened before he spoke the next sentence, but I waited. "Dad, there is paper in the toe of the shoes."

I told him to keep them. He wears them to this day with the paper in the toe.

Harold N. Smisor
Tryon
Rutherford EMC



Took care of loose ends

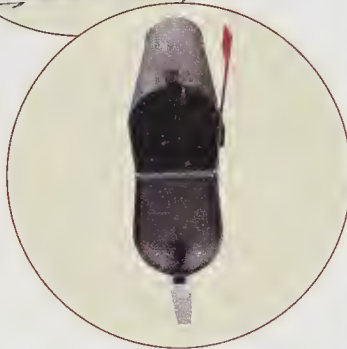
I was a young married mom with two young kids when my husband and I packed up the car for our much-needed getaway trip to the mountains. It was after dark, and we were anxious to get on our way. We only had two things to do before we left for the week: mail the bills and deliver the rent to the landlord's home. I put the kids in the car and rushed to take care of these last things before my husband was done work. I was to pick him up there.

I mailed the checks and letters and drove to the landlord's house. When I got there, I couldn't find the rent money and was so-o-o embarrassed to realize that I had put \$250 cash, loose, into the mail facility box with the bills. And the post office was closed.

I had to call the postmaster at his home to ask him to collect the money in the box on Monday and hold it for the landlord. Then I had to call the landlord and ask him to pick up the cash from the postmaster on Monday.

But the worst part was having to tell my husband how stupid I was. The rest of the vacation was great.

"Fritz" Beverly
Union Mills
Rutherford EMC



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March 2003

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Deadline: Jan. 15

April 2003

"Best North Carolina Vocotian - Off the Beaten Path"
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Deadline: Feb. 15

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"Why I Went Back to Schaal"
What was your mast meoningful adult education experience?
Deadline: May 15

August 2003

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1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos ore welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi ond octual size.
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5. Include your nome, electric co-op, moiling address ond phone number.
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*A Seasonal
Gift Guide*

BERTIE COUNTY PEANUTS



The soil of Bertie County makes it the best place to grow peanuts. Poppa Jack started with "blister fried" peanuts with that crunchy, fresh flavor. They were a big hit with real "connoisseurs" (the farmers at the warehouse). Try blister-fried peanuts, roasted or raw in the bag, chocolate jumbos, butterscotch, peanut brittle southern style, and combination gift baskets. Free brochure.

Bertie County Peanuts
217 US 13 North
Windsor, NC 27983
(800) 457-0005
E-mail: peanuts@eastcarolina.com
www.pnuts.net

HOLIDAY PRINTS AND CARDS

Entitled "A Christmas Past," the original holiday print by Cotton Ketchie is 7 1/8 by 10 1/8 inches, and personally signed by the artist. \$20. The red buggy depicted is in the old village of Mt. Ulla in Rowan County. Holiday gift cards (shown below) include the message "May your holiday be filled with joy and many Happy Memories." Twelve cards and envelopes, \$12.

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212 N. Main St.
Mooresville, NC 28115
(800) 842-8604
www.landmark-galleries.com



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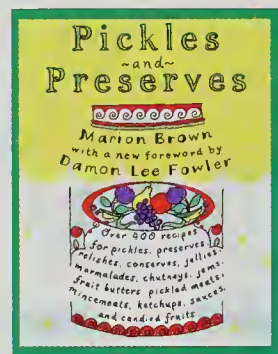
This four-generation family company has served its award-winning pork barbecue to four U.S. presidents, several N.C. governors, famous athletes and celebrities.

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Burlington, NC 27215
(336) 584-1377
www.CarolinaHarvest.com/hurseys

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With its heirloom recipes and clear instructions, "Pickles and Preserves" introduces the modern cook to a wonderful slice of America's culinary heritage. The book's 408 recipes - from relishes and chutneys to fruit butters and candied fruit flowers - let cooks of all levels capture flavors of the garden. Many of the recipes are surprisingly quick and simple. Damon Fowler's new foreword expands and updates author Marion Brown's notes on preserving methods, equipment, and safety. Paperback, 304 pages, \$18.95.



The University of North Carolina Press
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Chapel Hill, NC 27515
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(704) 372-1000
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Autryville, NC 28318
(800) 258-6026
www.rusticbarn.com



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NC Handcrafts
172 Flint Hill Lane
Pinnacle, NC 27043
www.nchandcrafts.com



THE ART OF DAVID E. DOSS



David Doss captures the essence of America's rural landscape, depicting the peacefulness and beauty of North Carolina's country homes, old barns, household objects, seasons and coastal scenes. This 2003 calendar features 12 paintings. Visit the Web site to see Christmas cards, note cards, prints and posters. The calendars are \$10.99 each (two for \$20).

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(888)-761-8822
www.davidedoss.com



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(800) 952-6887
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400 State St.
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(800) 457-2556
www.carolinacoffee.com

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Photo credit: Villa Photography,
Asheboro, NC

The North Carolina Zoological Society
4403 Zoo Parkway
Asheboro, NC 27205
(336) 879-7250
www.nczoo.com

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The Bob Timberlake Gallery
1714 East Center St. Extension
Lexington, NC 27292
(800) 244-0095

The Bob Timberlake Gallery
946 Main St.
Blowing Rock, NC 28605
(828) 295-4855

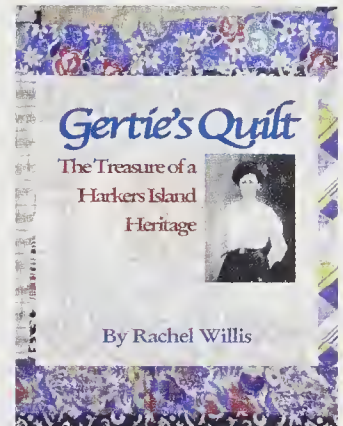
www.bobtimberlake.com



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"Gertie's Quilt," by Rachel Willis, relates the historical events and people that shaped Harkers Island. Rachel is the granddaughter of Gertie, whose patchwork brought together many pieces of history. The book is 8 in. by 11 in. and 200 pages, including maps, news clippings, photos, genealogical charts and veterans lists. \$35 each.

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Museum
P.O. Box 556
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(252) 728-1500
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Christmas Trees

Trees, wreaths and more can be shipped, too.

The following North Carolina farms and growers can ship by mail order if you give them advance notice. Most are members of the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association (on the Web at www.ncchristmastrees.com).

Christmas trees are one of North Carolina's major agricultural crops. Tar Heel growers this year will harvest more than 3.7 million trees, worth some \$92 million. The state Department of Agriculture reports that North Carolina produces more than 12 percent of the real Christmas trees in the United States. More than 1,600 growers produce trees on about 23,530 acres.

Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Watauga and Jackson counties produce 88 percent of North Carolina's Christmas trees.

"Choose and cut" Christmas trees represent approximately 25 percent of all trees sold in North Carolina. More than 400 growers open their fields and hillsides to visitors who want to take home their own tree. Many of them are members of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

To find a "choose and cut" farm near you, look at the North Carolina Choose and Cut Directory Web site at www.ncagr.com/markets/commodity/horticult/xmastree/guide.htm

For a free printed guide to "choose and cut" farms, contact:
N.C. Department of Agriculture
Northeast Marketing Center
P.O. Box 2066
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Phone: (252) 331-4773
Fax: (252) 331-4775
E-mail: john.aydlett@ncmail.net



Margaret Cartner

Cartner Christmas Tree Farm

PO Box 74

Newland, NC 28657

Telephone: 828-733-2391

Fax: 828-733-3799

E-mail: mcartner@skybest.com

Website: www.carolinafraserfir.com

Trees: Fraser fir

Wreaths: Fraser fir

Roping: Fraser fir

Hal Gimlin

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1369 Calloway Gap Rd.

West Jefferson, NC 28694

Telephone: 336-982-3475

Fax: 336-982-4163

E-mail: omnifarm@omnifarm.com

Website: www.omnifarm.com

Trees: Fraser fir, white pine

Wreaths: Fraser fir

Roping: Fraser fir, white pine

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K&W Christmas Tree Farm

Route 3 Box 135 B

Warrenton, NC 27589

Telephone: 919-554-0867

252-257-2397

Fax: 919-494-1300

E-mail: kilianla@aol

Trees: White pine

Nathaniel & Kirby Maram

What Fir! Tree Farm

6671 Junaluska Road

Boone, NC 28607

Telephone: 828-297-4646

Fax: 828-297-3559

E-mail: maram@apptechnc.net

Website: www.whatfirtreefarm.com

Wreaths: Fraser fir, and Fraser fir mixed with boxwood and/or white pine

Timothy C. Miller

Shady Rest Tree Farm

287 Trading Post Road

Glendale Springs, NC 28629

Telephone: 336-982-2031

E-mail: srtreefarm@skybest.com

Website: www.shadyresttreefarm.com

Trees: Fraser fir, white pine, blue spruce, Canaan fir

Wreaths: Fraser fir and Fraser fir/white pine mixed

Roping: White pine

Tom Miller

Tom Miller's Tree Farm and Nursery

13893 Hwy 18 South

Laurel Springs, NC 28644

Telephone: 336-359-2004

Fax: 336-359-2043

Trees: Fraser fir, white pine, blue spruce

Wreaths: Fraser fir

Roping: Fraser fir, and white pine

James Pitts

Sugar Plum Farm

PO Box 136

Plumtree, NC 28664

Telephone: 888-257-0019

Fax: 828-765-0019

E-mail: sugarplumfarm@boone.net

Website: www.sugarplumfarm.com

Trees: Fraser fir

Wreaths: Fraser fir, and Fraser fir/rhododendron mixed

Roping: Fraser fir

Chris Wilcox

Appalachian Evergreens Inc.

PO Box 2750

Boone, NC 28607

Telephone: 828-264-1609

Fax: 828-264-7602

E-mail: nanr@boone.net

Website: www.appevergreens.com

Trees: Fraser fir

Wreaths: Fraser fir and mixed

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Straight from the Web



Say you're writing a report and need to double-check a fact or two. Or say you just heard something on TV or the radio and want to make sure it's correct. What do you do?

In the past, you reached for an almanac or encyclopedia or headed to the library. Today, in the Age of the Internet, these facts are as close as your computer screen.

To check a fact you might be tempted to fire up Google, at www.google.com, the best general-interest Web search engine. But despite its sophisticated search technology that helps you home in on relevant information, Google can still be too scatter-shot an approach when fact checking.

Nothing beats an almanac for quick facts on everyday items, and nothing beats InfoPlease.com, at www.infoplease.com, as a source for free online almanacs. It offers a range of almanacs on world and domestic issues, history and government, business, society and culture, biography, health and science, arts and entertainment, and sports, not to mention a dictionary, concise encyclopedia and atlas.

For more meaty material, you should surf to a full-fledged online encyclopedia. Britannica Online includes the full text of Encyclopædia Britannica, at www.britannica.com, the world's best encyclopedia, along with a dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, audio and video clips, and links to other Web sites. You can read the first few sentences of encyclopedia articles for free, with full access costing \$10 per month or \$70 per year.

Though they're more concise, other excellent online encyclopedias include MSN Encarta, at www.encarta.msn.com, and Encyclopedia.com, at www.encyclopedia.com.

Encarta, however, can be overloaded and slow, and some of its articles require you to have bought the CD-ROM version. Encyclopedia.com, along with providing free encyclopedia articles, includes links to eLibrary, a compilation of articles from thousands of newspapers, magazines, and TV and radio transcripts, with a subscription costing \$25 per month or \$250 per year.

The best biographical encyclopedia on the Web is Biography.com, at www.biography.com, with more than 1,000 articles on both current and historical figures.

If you're after word wisdom you're after, Dictionary.com, at www.dictionary.com, may have it. It offers a dictionary and thesaurus, as well as translation tools for Spanish, French, German, Italian, and Portuguese. The site also includes links to medical, legal, and scientific dictionaries. For a comprehensive translation site is AltaVista's Babel Fish, at www.altavista.com/tr. It handles the above languages plus Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

Another good word site is YourDictionary.com, at www.yourdictionary.com. Along with English language and foreign language dictionaries and various thesauri, it provides links to 60 specialized glossaries, from business and computing to law and medicine.

Say you come across an acronym that you can't make sense of. Acronym Finder, at www.acronymfinder.com, offers definitions of more than 242,000 acronyms, abbreviations and initialisms. If it's technology related, CMP's TechEncyclopedia, at www.techweb.com/encyclopedia, may be an even better choice, with definitions of more than 20,000 acronyms and other terms related to computers and the Internet.

Sometimes you want to know in detail how something works. The appropriately named site HowStuffWorks, at www.howstuffworks.com, provides descriptions, diagrams and photos of more than 2,500 devices and processes in categories from automotive and electronics to health and money.

If it's a statistic you need to want, check out Statistics.com, at www.statistics.com. You'll find numbers from government and other sources on a range of different topics, though you'll be more likely to find regularly published data there than private market research. Another good site is the University of Michigan's Statistical Resources on the Web, at www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html.

Two excellent sites for checking general health information are Harvard University-affiliated IntelliHealth, at www.intelihealth.com, and MayoClinic.com, at www.mayoclinic.com. RxList, at www.rxlist.com, and the National Library of Medicine's Medline Plus Drug Information, at www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html, both provide information about brand name and generic pharmaceutical drugs.

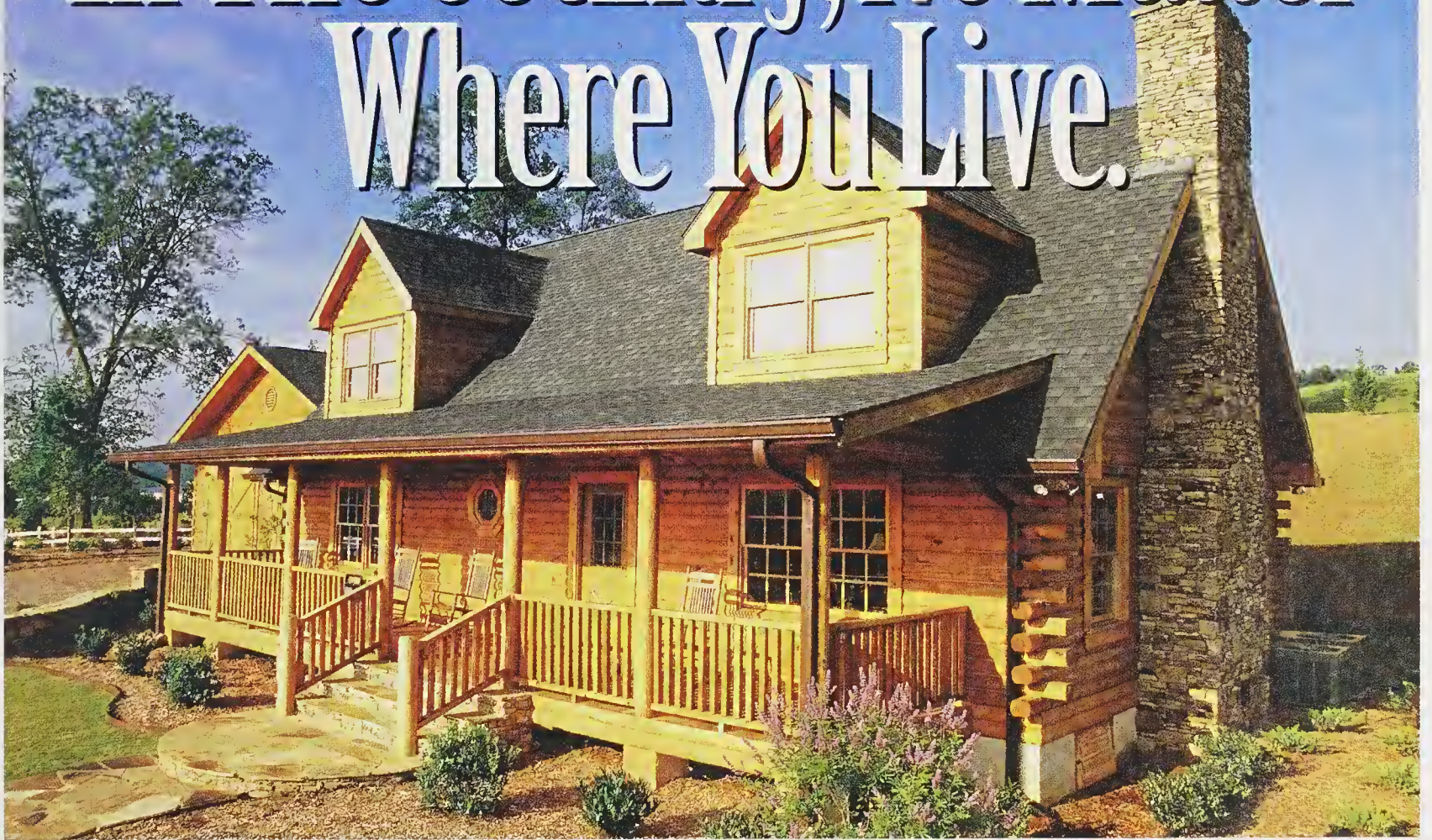
A number of sites compile links of reference materials. The best overall is the University of Michigan's Internet Public Library, at www.ipl.org. There you'll find links to almanacs, calendars, dictionaries, style and writing guides, quotations, biographies, encyclopedias, atlases, books, magazines, and newspapers, among other materials.

Another good general reference site is Researchville, at www.researchville.com. It conveniently lets you do "meta searching" of multiple sources at once with just a single query, though it doesn't combine results on a single page. You can search multiple almanacs, encyclopedias, dictionaries, newspapers, newswires, magazines, health sources, education sources, government sources, and discussion forums.

Finally, you might think that UselessKnowledge.com, at www.uselessknowledge.com, is fairly useless. But this whimsically named site is a great trivia resource, letting you among other things search for arcane information by keyword.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or <http://www.netaxs.com/~reidgold/column>.

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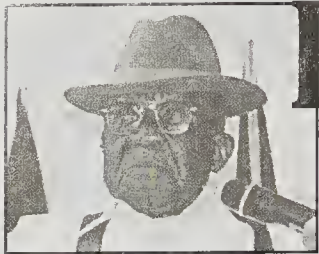
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Robert Hodges

text and photos by Virginia Berger

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when an armistice declared the end of World War I in Europe, Robert Hodges was some 30 miles from the Western Front in France, where some of the worst fighting had taken place. As a member of the all-black Company A, 702 Stevedore Battalion, he had worked behind the lines, sending supplies, weapons, food and clothing to the front.

Among other work, the Stevedore Battalion "went behind the engineers and laid tracks on the railroad," Mr. Hodges remembered recently. But they were not far from the action, he said. "We could lie in the bunks and see the sky light up, and hear the shooting and hollering."

Since 1926, the date of November 11 has been recognized nationally as a time to honor America's military veterans, especially those who went to war. Since 1938, Veterans Day has been a legal national holiday.

And since the spring of this year, Robert Hodges, who lives in the Stonewall community of Pamlico County, has been recognized as the nation's oldest veteran.

"We consider him to be a national treasure for his longevity and his distinguished service to his country," said Daniel Hoffmann, director of the Veterans Administration (VA) Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network in Durham.

VA documents say Robert Hodges was born June 18, 1891, near the Beaufort County town of Bath. He joined the U.S. Army in 1918 and saw duty in France and Belgium. The VA estimates that fewer than 1,500 veterans of World War I are still living and that, at age 111, Mr. Hodges has been the oldest among them since a Tennessee man died last year at age 112.

Generals from three military bases joined Pamlico County and state government officials, as well as a color guard, brass band and 200 well-wishers, to honor Mr. Hodges and his family on "Robert Hodges Day," celebrated at Pamlico Community College on March 8 this year. There, a representative from the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, on behalf of Gov. Mike Easley, conferred upon Mr. Hodges the Order of the Longleaf Pine, which is the state's highest civilian honor. Other commendations came from President George W. Bush, Congressman Walter B. Jones Jr. and U.S. Senators John Edwards and Jesse Helms, who sent a U.S. flag that had flown over the nation's Capitol in Mr. Hodges' honor.

Surrounded by family and well-wishers that day in March, Robert Hodges belted his strong baritone voice in an energetic rendition of the popular World War I song, "Over There."

*To prepare, say a prayer,
Be it the word, send the word to beware.
We'll be over, we're coming over,
And we won't come back 'til it's over
Over there."*



On Robert Hodges Day in Pamlico County last March, the guest of honor sang the popular World War I song, "Over There."

OVER THERE

"We was over there when the longest-range gun in the world was shot," he remembered in a 1998 interview with The Pamlico News. The weapon, he said, came from New York, and his company unloaded it from the ship and sent it on.

Some memories, he said, have dimmed with age. "I used to be able to tell it all. But now I've got to the place where sometimes I can't think." He remembers that he "went all over France, just about everywhere," and can recall St. Mihiel and the port of Brest by name.

Aboard the ship carrying them across the Atlantic bound for France, Mr. Hodges said, he and many of his comrades were stricken with influenza. The ship was made to remain at anchor off the French coast for about three weeks before being cleared into port. Mr. Hodges remembered a hospital there: "They had a big long house with (what looked like) shelves" to care for the sick. He saw the flu decimate the troops. "You couldn't count as fast as they was dying."

One name he remembers well is that of Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, who commanded the American Army in Europe during World War I. Gen. Pershing died 54 years ago in Washington.

"General Pershing, I knowed him practically just as good as I did my own brother," Mr. Hodges said. "He was boss of the whole thing. About every two months he'd go through the camp and see how everything was. I remember he'd come and inspect and tell us what to do and how to do everything."

"After he got acquainted with me," he added, "when I was around the camp, he'd send for me. He'd carry me over there to work for him. Whatever he wanted, I did it. He always acted like he thought a lot of me. . . . After the armistice was signed, General Pershing wanted me to stay out there with him, but I didn't want to do it. I wanted to come home, so he sent me home."

AMERICAN'S OLDEST VETERAN

BACK HERE

Soon after he returned home to the North Creek area of Beaufort County, not far from Bayview, Robert Hodges began noticing Malinda Boyd at church. One Sunday he stopped by her house and asked if she'd join him for ice cream the next Sunday. Eventually they married in 1922. They spent 70 years together and had eight children, seven of whom are with us today.

The grandson of slaves, Robert Hodges was one of 10 children born to David and Mary Hodges. In a 1990 interview with Nancy Winfrey, for her book, "On Both Sides of the River," Mr. Hodges recalled his life in Beaufort and Pamlico counties.

His parents, he told Ms. Winfrey, "lived on an old before-the-war farm, an old slave farm." After the Civil War, he said, many of those who had worked that farm as slaves still lived there and, in his youth, he was acquainted with the last of them. They told stories of uncles who had been sold and left the area. "When they parted, they never saw each other again," he said. "They told me they were bid off like cattle."

"We lived in a small, two-room house and cooked in an open fireplace," he told Ms. Winfrey. "Our house had a dirt chimney, I remember, which was built with wood strips and then covered with mud." His mother stuffed rags into the cracks in the wooden floor. The windows, he said, were "just nailed-up boards that you had to open with a string tied to it. And they opened out."

Robert Hodges' formal schooling in North Creek lasted about three years. By the age of 8 or 9, he said, "I worked all day long. I pretty well took care of myself."

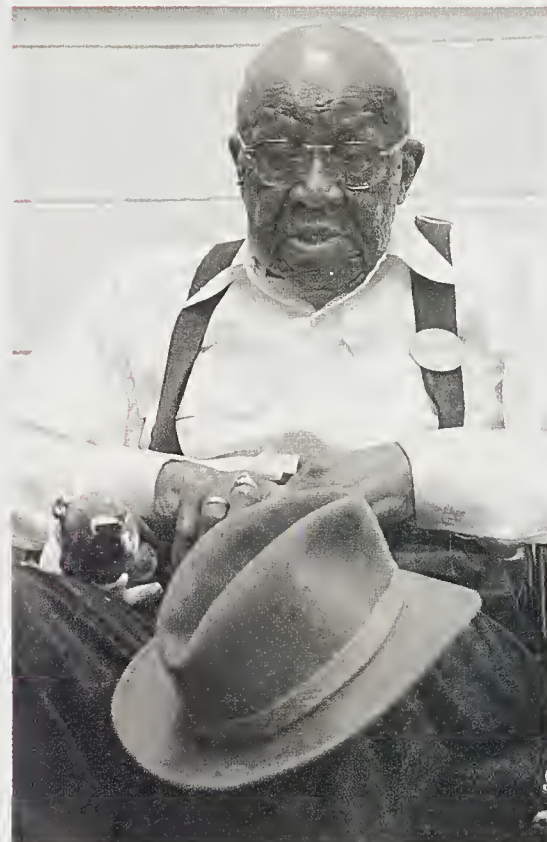
After marrying in 1922, he and Malinda lived in Bath until 1930 or 1931, then moved to Pamlico County so that he could work for WJ. "Will" Swan.

After three years in the community of Trent (now Merritt), they moved just north to Stonewall. At first, he earned 15 cents a day working for Will Swan, then 35 cents a day. His wife also worked in the fields and earned another 15 cents a day. If they earned \$2.50, he said, it was enough to feed his family for a week. Eventually, Mr. Hodges became Will Swan's foreman and, later, farmed his own land until failing eyesight forced him to retire in the 1950s.

For more than 70 years, Robert Hodges has been a member of the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Stonewall and, for much of that time, served as its treasurer. His wife was a deaconess at the same church for a half century.



In September, former Vice President and fellow war veteran Bob Dole (right) visited Mr. Hodges.



Robert Hodges of Pamlico County, age 111, is America's oldest veteran.

SOMEONE TO LEAN ON

Today, Robert Hodges lives with his daughter Helen. His other children are David, Vera Davis, Rhoda Lipkins, Rosia Joyner, the late Robert Jr., Samuel and Elisha.

Many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended the "Robert Hodges Day" ceremonies in March. "He's always been a joy to be around," grandson Gregory Lipkins said then. "And, for his age, he's still pretty lively."

In fact, Gregory Lipkins said, his grandfather has never seemed old. "When he would tell a story, he'd start it with 'the old man says.' I always wondered who 'the old man' was. It was only recently I realized he was talking about himself."

Robert Hodges inspired his daughter, Rhoda, to teach school. "My father didn't finish school," she said. "He only went for a little while because he had to work. He told us if we didn't do better than he did, we hadn't done anything. He always challenged us, and it made me not want to stop learning. I taught for 30 years before I retired."

What her son remembers best, however, is his grandfather's gentleness and love. To this day Mr. Hodges is rarely seen without a child on his lap.

"When I was growing up, he was real comforting to me," Gregory Lipkins said. "When I was sick, he would hold me for as long as it took to see that I was okay. He's always been someone you could lean on."

At age 111, Robert Hodges is still someone to lean on, someone to hold a child in his lap, and someone who understands how to live contentedly.

"I can still get up and get down on my own, and eat near about as much as I ever did," he said. "I always got along in the Army. I got along with people my whole life. People have always helped me, and I've always helped them. You just have to trust in the Lord and treat everybody right."

Virginia Berger is a reporter with *The Pamlico News*, published weekly in Oriental.

marketPLACE

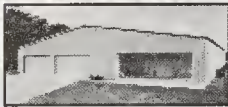
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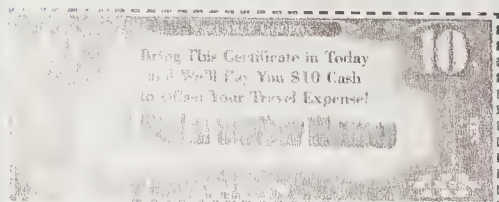
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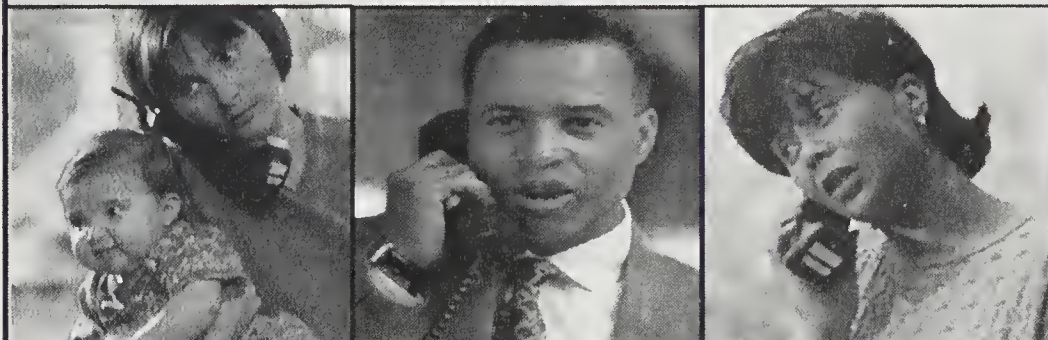
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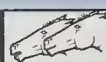
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Ask a friend to enter any three-digit number into a calculator and multiply it by nine. Now tell your friend to add any number from one through nine, and tell you the total.

You immediately declare the last number added!
Here's how. Add all of the digits in the total given to you; then add them again to reach a single digit. (This is the digital root of the total.) The result will be the last digit added.

Example: $(935 \times 9) + 4 = 7681$.
 $7 + 6 + 8 + 1 = 22$.
 $2 + 2 = 4$.

(Actually, this procedure will work with any beginning number, no matter how large.)

Percy P. Cassidy

Poles Apart



Percy, what do YOU call Thanksgiving company?



e l t n

t w p h r w i

e i a w d o g

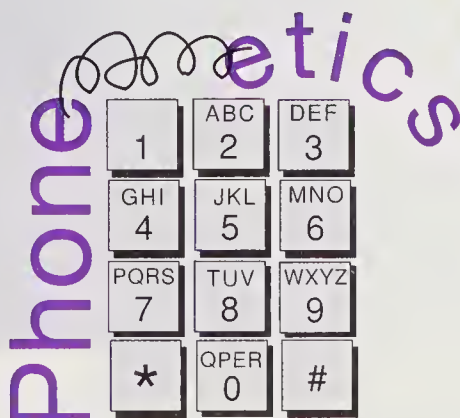
Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.

"ADEFH ILN ORSTW" means
power and light

Prior to 1887, Forest City, N.C. was known as
2 8 7 6 8 2 4 4 6 6 3 9

A _ _ _ _
B _ _ _ _
C _ _ _ _

If you were to punch in the numbers above on your telephone key pad you would spell out the two missing words. Go figure!



Answers are on page 32



DEER CROSSING

(The buck does not stop here)

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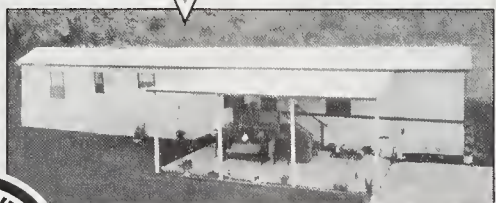
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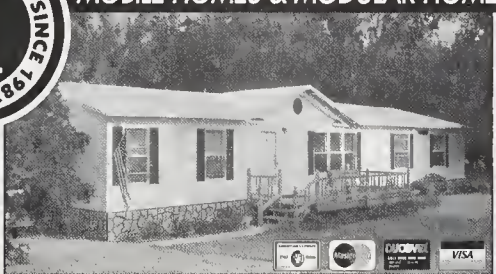
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3' 750 watts – Silicone		\$179	
\$15.00 shipping per heater		\$	
Total Amount		\$	

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

November *EVENTS*



Learn fascinating chimp facts by seeing "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees," shown at Discovery Place's OMNI-MAX Theatre in Charlotte through November 27. The film opens November 1 at the IMAX Theatre in Exploris in Raleigh. Discovery Place: (704) 372-6261, www.discoveryplace.org. Exploris: (919) 834-4040, www.exploris.org.

MOUNTAINS (west of I-77)

Holiday Greenery Sale
Nov. 1-25. Belmont.
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.
(704) 829-1256.

Timber Fest
Nov. 1-2. Bryson City.
Lumberjack contests, music,
wood crafts. Darnell Farms.
(828) 497-2376.

Highland Games
Nov. 1-2. Hendersonville.
(828) 420-5050.

Greenery Sale
Nov. 1-2. Hendersonville.
(828) 420-5050.

Blue Ridge Mountain
Nov. 2-3. Hendersonville.
(828) 420-5050.

Sidewalk Crafts Fair
Nov. 2-3. Maggie Valley.
(828) 926-1186.
www.holidaymotel.net

"Grace & Glorie"
Through Nov. 3. Flat Rock.
Flat Rock Playhouse.
(828) 693-0731.
www.flatrockplayhouse.org

"Nunsense"
Nov. 7-10, Nov. 14-17.
Hayesville. (828) 389-8632.
www.licklogplayers.org

"A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court"
Nov. 8-10. Waynesville.
Haywood County Youth
Theatre. (828) 456-8983.

Puddingstone Concert
Nov. 9. West Jefferson.
(336) 246-2787.
www.ashecountyarts.org

Pottery Festival
Nov. 9. Shelby.
(704) 542-8869.
www.cclav.com/potteryfest

String Quartets
Nov. 14. Brevard.
Turtle Island String Quartet/
Ying Quartet. Brevard College
Porter Center. (828) 884-8330.
www.brevard.edu/portercenter

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Nov. 15. Wilkesboro.
Old courthouse. (336) 838-
3951. www.wilkesboronc.com

Holiday Craft Show
Nov. 16. Morganton.
(828) 438-8490.

Native American Celebration
Nov. 16. Granite Falls.
(828) 758-2866.

Trees & Wreaths exhibit
Nov. 19-Dec. 31. West
Jefferson. (336) 246-2787.
www.ashecountyarts.org

Appalachian Ski Mountain
Nov. 22. Blowing Rock.
Opening Day. (828) 295-7828.
www.appskimtn.com

Harvest Day
Nov. 23. Gastonia.
Schiele Museum Farm.
(704) 866-6900.
www.schielemuseum.org

"Annie"
Nov. 23-Dec. 9. Asheville.
Asheville Theatre. (828) 254-
1320. www.ashevilletheatre.org

Christmas Parade.
Nov. 24. Marion.
Free. (828) 652-2215.

Christmas Parade
Nov. 27. Sylva.
(800) 962-1911.
www.mountainlovers.com

Christmas Parade
Nov. 27. Spruce Pine.
(828) 765-3000.
www.mitchell-county.com

Tree Lighting
Nov. 28. Old Fort.
Hot chocolate, songs.
Free. (828) 668-7223.

Christmas in the Park
Nov. 29. Blowing Rock.
(828) 295-7851.
www.blowingrock.com

Thanks Evening
Nov. 29. Black Mountain.
Food & entertainment.
(828) 669-2300.

Christmas Crafts & Greens Fair
Nov. 29-30. Maggie Valley.
(828) 926-8021.

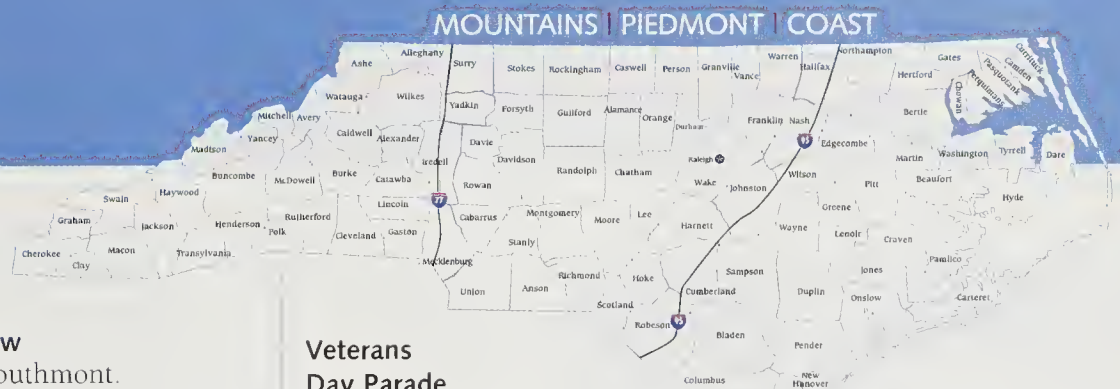
Christmas Parade
Nov. 30. Sparta.
(336) 372-6135.

Rugby Craft Fair
Nov. 30. Hendersonville.
(828) 696-3037.

Christmas Parade
Nov. 30. Maggie Valley.
(828) 926-1686.

Christmas Parade
Nov. 30. Blowing Rock.
(828) 295-7851.
www.blowingrock.com

Storytelling Festival
Nov. 30. Tryon.
(828) 859-9021. www.fence.org



PIEDMONT

(between I-77 and I-95)

Hayride & Storytime at Lake Cammack

Nov. 1. Burlington.
(336) 421-3872.
www.ci.burlington.nc.us

Storytelling Festival

Nov. 1-2. Burlington.
(336) 222-5001.

Holiday Market

Nov. 1-3. Greensboro.
(336) 274-5550.
www.greensborocoliseum.com

Renaissance Festival

Nov. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17.
Charlotte. (877) 896-5544.
www.Renfestinfo.com

Juried Art Show

Nov. 2-Jan. 2. Durham.
(919) 560-2713.
www.durhamartguild.org

Kiln Opening

Nov. 2. Ether.
Piney Woods Pottery.
(910) 572-3554.

Craft Show

Nov. 2. Southmont.
(336) 798-3537.

Touchstone Energy Festival

Nov. 2. Dunn.
(910) 892-3282.

Antique Truck Show

Nov. 2. Greensboro.
(336) 657-8083.

Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival

Nov. 2. Dunn.
Car show, cotton gin tours,
carriage rides. (910) 892-3282.

Occaneechi Living Village Day

Nov. 2. Hillsborough.
(919) 304-3723.
www.occaneechi-saponi.org

Cottage Craft Sale

Nov. 8-9. Kernersville.
Kernersville Community House.
(336) 993-2260.

International Festival

Nov. 8-10. Raleigh.
(919) 832-4331.
www.internationalfestival.org

Antiques Show

Nov. 8-10. Pinehurst.
(910) 692-2051.
www.moorehistory.com

"Jack & the Beanstalk"

Nov. 8-14. Raleigh.
Raleigh Little Theatre.
(919) 821-4579.

Southeastern Wrestling

Nov. 9. Selma.
(252) 237-3431.

S.H.O.E. Fall Clinic

Nov. 9. New Salem.
(704) 843-1466.

Carolina Pottery Festival

Nov. 9. Shelby.
(704) 487-9542.

Veterans

Day Parade

Nov. 9. Gastonia.
(704) 866-6068.

Holiday Show Opening

Nov. 10. Statesville.
Iredell Museum of Arts &
Heritage. (704) 873-4734.

Salute to Veterans

Nov. 10. Oakboro.
(704) 485-3612.

Veterans Day Parade

Nov. 11. Lincolnton.
(704) 736-8915.

Veterans Day Parade

Nov. 11. Raleigh.
(919) 733-4994.
www.ncstatecapitol.com

Piedmont Crafts Fair

Nov. 15-17. Winston-Salem.
(336) 725-1516.

Holiday Bazaar

Nov. 16-17. South Hill,
Va. Free. (434) 447-8162.

Crafts & Santa

Nov. 16. Lexington.
Free. (336) 248-3960,
ext. 3237.

"The Wizard of Oz"

Nov. 16-24. Greensboro.
(336) 333-2605.

Christmas Music Show

Nov. 16. Sanford.
(910) 893-9556.

"Black Nativity"

Nov. 20-25, Nov. 30-
Dec. 2. Greensboro.
A&T University.
(336) 334-7519.

Amy Marshall Dance

Nov. 21. Wingate.
(704) 233-8300.
www.wingate.edu

Pottery Festival

Nov. 23-24. Seagrove.
(336) 873-7887.

Festival of Trees

Nov. 24. Pinehurst.
(910) 692-3323.

Christmas Open House

Nov. 24. Lexington.
Free. (336) 249-0383.

Arts & Crafts Festival

Nov. 29-Dec 1. Greensboro.
(336) 274-5550.

N.C. Museum of Art

Ongoing. Raleigh.
Through Dec. 1, "Birds of
America" | Through Jan. 5, "Art
in the Age of Rubens,
Rembrandt" | (919) 839-6262.
www.ncartmuseum.org

CONTINUED ►



Visit the Touchstone Energy Cotton Festival in Dunn on November 2. Festivities include a classic car show; arts and crafts; food; kiddy land; a climbing wall; live country, bluegrass, and gospel music; carriage rides; and tours through Dunn's own cotton gin. Call (910) 892-3282 for details.

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NOVEMBER EVENTS



This queen-size, handmade quilt will be raffled off at a drawing during the "Quilters Harvest," held Friday, Nov. 1, and Saturday, Nov. 2, at the New Bern Shrine Club in New Bern. The show displays handmade and machine-made quilts, wallhangings and clothing. Call (252) 638-8961.

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(919) 834-4040.
www.exploris.org

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Free. (910) 648-
4340. [www.bladen
county.com](http://www.bladen
county.com)

"The Music Man"
Nov. 1-3, 7-10, 14-
16. New Bern.
(252) 633-0567.

Quilters Harvest
Nov. 1-2. New
Bern. (252) 638-
8961.

Harvest Festival
Nov. 2. Whiteville.
(910) 642-3171.

**Mattamuskeet
Bike Ride**

Nov. 2. Swan Quarter. (888)
493-3826. www.hydecountry.org

Pamlico Concert

Nov. 8. Oriental.
(252) 249-3079.
www.pamlicomusic.org

Mistletoe Craft Show

Nov. 8-10. Elizabeth City.
(252) 264-2167.

ABWA Fall Bazaar

Nov. 9. Rocky Mount.
(919) 451-0978.

Surf Fishing Tournament

Nov. 9. Buxton.
(252) 995-4253.

Quilt Exhibit

Nov. 9-10. Greenville.
(252) 752-5483.

Veterans Day Parade

Nov. 9. Morehead City.
(252) 728-8440.

Veterans Day Celebration

Nov. 9. Warsaw.
(910) 293-7804.

Holiday Ho Down & Country Fair

Nov. 9. Wilmington.
Poplar Grove Plantation.
(910) 799-4766.

Renaissance Festival

Nov. 9. Manteo.
Roanoke Island Festival Park.
(252) 475-1506.
www.roanokeisland.com

Arts & Crafts Fair

Nov. 9-10. Williamston.
(252) 792-1539.

Ship Model Exhibit

Nov. 9-Jan. 26. Beaufort.
NC Maritime Museum.
(252) 728-7317.
[www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/
sections/maritime](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/
sections/maritime)

Candlelight Galleries Tour

Nov. 14. Morehead City,
Beaufort. (252) 726-9156.

Soul Food Celebration

Nov. 15. Columbia.
(252) 796-0723. [www.partner
shipforthesounds.org](http://www.partner
shipforthesounds.org)

Holiday Parade

Nov. 16. Jacksonville.
(910) 347-3141.

Christmas Fair

Nov. 16. Havelock.
(252) 447-1101.
www.havelockchamber.net

Holiday Bazaar

Nov. 16-17. South Hill, Va.
Free. (434) 447-8162.

Lighted Boat Parade

Nov. 22. Elizabeth City.
(252) 338-4104.

Beach Cleanup

Nov. 23. Nags Head.
(252) 480-0388.
www.ncbba.org

"The Night Before Christmas Carol"

Nov. 23. New Bern.
Craven Community College.
(252) 638-4729.

Kites with Lights

Nov. 23. Kitty Hawk.
(877) 359-8447.
www.kittyhawkkites.com

Christmas Flotilla

Nov. 23. Swansboro.
(910) 353-0241.

Farm City Festival

Nov. 23. Plymouth.
(252) 793-2163.

Antique Tractor Pull

Nov. 24. Williamston.
(252) 826-5757.

Island of Light Celebration

Nov. 29. Carolina Beach.
(910) 458-7116.

Santa Arrives at Docks

Nov. 29. Beaufort.
(252) 728-6894.

Arts & Crafts Showcase

Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Morehead City.
(252) 726-8148.

Chicamacomico Open House

Nov. 29-30. Rodanthe.
Free. (252) 987-1292.

Tryon Palace

Ongoing events. New Bern.
Nov. 5, "All Quiet on Western
Front," Free. | Nov. 9, "Autumn's
Last Harrah." | Nov. 27-Dec. 29,
"Holiday Celebration." (800)
767-1560. www.tryonpalace.org

LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for Jan: Nov. 25 | Deadline for Feb: Dec. 25

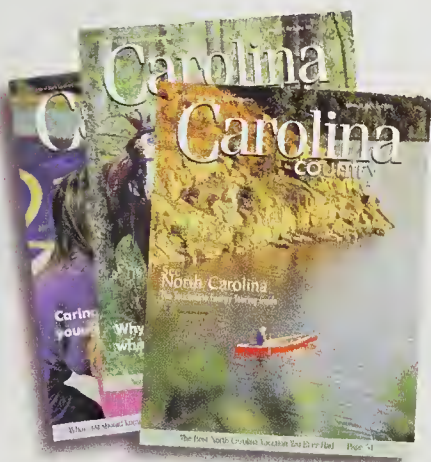
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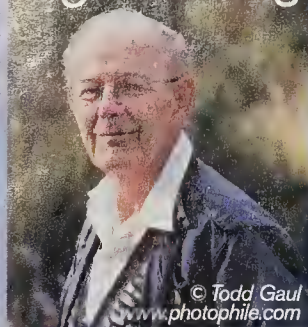
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Charlotte, NC 28203



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Shorter days and cooler weather bring gardening chores of locating permanent trees and shrubs and removing dead wood from diseased or damaged trees, shrubs and vines. In choosing your long-lasting “backbone” plants, look for ones with spring blooms, summer blooms and berries, autumn leaf color, winter berries and unusual bark formations, to provide year-round color and interest.

GARDENING FOCUS

Ground Covers

On large properties, use ground covers to “connect” several trees. This converts a big area into an accent point, and reduces lawn that needs constant maintenance.

Shade-loving ground covers include: vinca, liriopse, lily-of-the-valley, violets, ajuga and self-branching English ivy. Mondo grass works well in sun or shade. In areas with full sun, minimize mowing with sun-loving ground covers like low-growing junipers and evergreen daylilies. In semi-shady areas, dwarf sasanquas make great ground covers.

A garden hose is a handy guide for defining an area to be planted with ground covers.

Planting for Posterity

Plants have become prized heirlooms in some families. There are cherished hydrangeas and geraniums that date back several generations. Some of these plants have descendants by way of seeds and rooted cuttings. In this way, choice shrubs are moved from old homesteads to yards of descendants.

In planting for future generations, stately mature trees become choice possessions that add meaning and memories to home landscapes. Live oak trees, native to forests from Virginia to Mexico, adjust to almost any soil type from sandy to heavy clay. They reach 60-to-80 feet in height with wide horizontally spreading limbs. Live oaks are popular climbing subjects for children. They have become the landscape accent plant and the benchmark of some home sites. Some exist that are more than 400 years old.

Bulb Forcing

Now's the time to force flower bulbs in order to have blooms for Christmas and Valentine's Day. Tulips, daffodils, snowdrops, crocuses, grape hyacinths and miniature irises (iris reticulata and iris danfordiae) are proven winners to trick into blooming early out of season. Different bulbs force at different rates. Allow at least 14 weeks for tulips, at least 16 weeks for daffodils, and 12 weeks for crocuses, snowdrops, miniature iris and other small bulbs. Garden centers have tulip and daffodil bulbs that have been started commercially—giving you a head start on force time.



Take the beauty of tulips indoors by forcing bulbs in order to have blooms for Christmas.

Plant bulbs close together in the pot so there will be a full cluster of foliage and blooms. Talk to garden center employees for tips on fertilizing, culture, and general care of your bulbs.

Hedging It In

Gain valuable backyard privacy by employing fences and walls for restricted spaces, and greenery for large, sweeping expanses. Several choices include: viburnums, small-flowered anise (Illicium floridanum or I. Parviflorum), Leyland cypress, Japanese cedars, Chamaecyparis (a false cypress), red-tip photinia, or tall-growing ornamental grasses. Your local garden center can help you choose plants for your particular site.

HORT shorts

Time to plant fruit trees, blueberries, blackberries and bunch grapes.

Plow the vegetable plot and let it lie fallow over winter. After plowing, leave the surface rough for the most exposure. Winter freezes kill insects and larvae, leaving good soil to use for early spring planting.

Pansies are the most popular cool-season garden flower. Their versatility, ease of culture, range of color in blooms, and abundant flowering make pansies an excellent choice for winter color on berms. End of October through November are ideal for massing pansies.

Allow well-fertilized, potted amaryllis bulbs to

go dormant by withholding water. Keep above freezing.

Apply only a light mulch to peonies planted in fall. A light mulch prevents ground from heaving, but too much mulch will insulate plants from the chilling cold needed for strong plant development.

Now's the time to harvest dried hydrangea blooms for winter decorations.

Plant cold-hardy bulbs such as tulips, crocuses, and hyacinths in the garden for spring blooms.

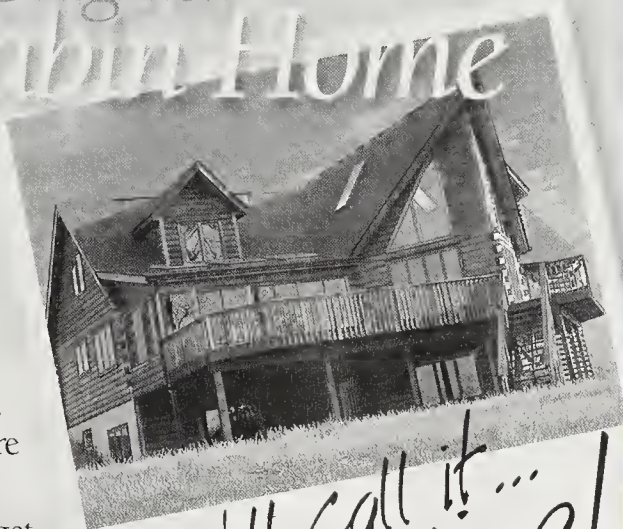
Wash ashes from the fireplace add lime to soils of low-lime concentration. Sprinkle a light application on garden beds.

Order plant and seed catalogs for use in planning next year's gardens.

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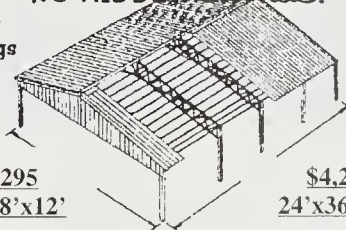


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All replacement sash manufacturers use wood frames.

Sash replacements fit in old windows and can help reduce utility bills

By James Dulley

Instead of replacing the entire window, you can upgrade the glass in the window with a tilt-in sash replacement kit. Using these kits will not change the look of your home. This lets you install just one or several of them at a time as your budget allows.

Installing a sash replacement kit is a fairly simple do-it-yourself job requiring only a few hand tools, but you should also consider hiring a contractor.

Since glass is the heart of any window, replacing just the sashes can reduce your utility bills and window condensation during the winter. All of the sash replacement kits available include new tilt-in jamb liner channels and pivot cams. These channels allow you to tilt in each window sash individually for easy cleaning from indoors, yet still form an efficient airtight seal when closed.

The new tilt-in channels in the kit are designed to fit perfectly in your old window frames. The new sashes fit snugly into the channels, eliminating any old weight-type counterbalances used to hold the window open. These channels are designed to hold the window open in any position while still allowing the sash to be moved up and down easily. They are made of durable plastic to retain their tension and resist wear.

The high-efficiency glass options available for the sash kits are the same ones available in other new replacement windows. Installing low-emissivity (low-e) double-pane glass with argon gas in the gap is an adequate and reasonably priced choice for most areas of the country. It also reduces carpet fading from the sun. Other more efficient glass options are double low-e coatings, triple panes, quad panes, and ones with low-e film stretched between the panes.

If you have problems with road sounds or other noise, consider installing krypton gas instead of argon gas in the gap between the panes. Krypton is denser and blocks more noise and energy loss. Both krypton and argon are as clear as air, so they are not visible inside the window. Even without krypton gas, just the airtightness of the new sashes can effectively block much outdoor noise.

Most of the replacement sash manufacturers use wood for the framing. It is strong, a natural insulator and easy to work with. Most are available in natural or primed finishes, which you can paint to match the existing window frame color. For nearly maintenance-

free windows, select a sash kit with aluminum cladding on the exterior surfaces. It should never need painting and other than regular cleaning, you can pretty much forget them.

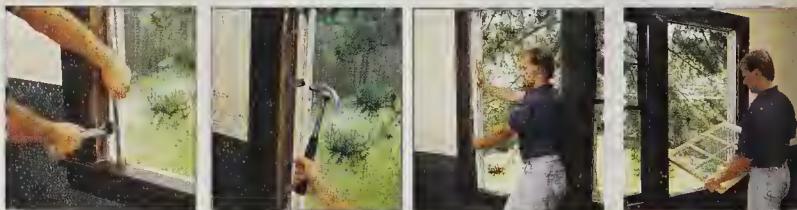
Tilt-in replacement sash kits include everything you need to install one in an existing window frame: two sashes, locks, tilt-in pivots, jamb liner channels, hardware, and an instructional video. There are literally hundreds of sizes, often in one- and two-inch increments, so it usually is not a problem finding the proper size to fit your existing window frames.

The tools you need to install a kit are a hammer, saw, putty knife, pliers, and finishing nails. Pry the old sash stops loose from the window frame. Be careful with this initial step because there may be several coats of old paint on them that you will have to break through.

When they are removed, tack the new channels clips into place on the inside surfaces of the window frame. Snap the channels over the clips. Once they are attached, the sashes will keep them from coming loose. Insert the top sash into the channels first, followed by the pivots and then the lower sash. Replace the old sash stops and you are done.

Another lower-cost option, although not as efficient, is to install just a jamb liner replacement kit. These new jamb liners fit tightly against the existing sashes to block air leaks and hold them in any position when opened. Since you still have the same old glass panes, you will still have the same window condensation problems.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 498 - buyer's guide of 11 tilt-in sash replacement and channel kit manufacturers listing frame materials, colors, glass options, features, prices, and installation instructions. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. Send to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.



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Pumpkin Ice Cream Pie

- 3 English toffee candy bars (1.4 ounces each), crushed, divided
- 3 cups vanilla ice cream, softened, divided
- 1 chocolate crumb crust (9 inches)
- ½ cup canned or cooked pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Combine two-thirds of the crushed candy bars and 2 cups ice cream. Spoon into crust; freeze for 1 hour or until firm. In a bowl, combine the pumpkin, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and remaining ice cream. Spoon over ice cream layer in crust. Sprinkle with remaining crushed candy bars. Cover and freeze for 8 hours or up to 2 months. Remove from the freezer 10-15 minutes before serving.

Yield: 8 servings.



Pumpkin Ice Cream Pie



Sweet Potato Layer Cake

Sweet Potato Layer Cake

- 1½ cups vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1½ cups finely shredded uncooked sweet potato (about 1 medium)
- ¼ cup hot water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2½ cups cake flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans

FROSTING:

- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 cans (5 ounces each) evaporated milk
- 4 egg yolks, beaten
- 2½ cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

In a mixing bowl, beat oil and sugar. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add sweet potato, water and vanilla; mix well. In a small mixing bowl, beat egg whites until stiff, fold into the sweet potato mixture. Combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; add to potato mixture. Stir in pecans. Divide batter into three greased 9 inch round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 22-27 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes before removing to wire racks. In a saucepan, melt the butter; whisk in the egg yolks until smooth. Cook over medium heat for 10-12 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Remove from the heat; stir in the coconut, pecans and vanilla. Cool slightly. Place one cake layer on a serving plate; spread with a third of the frosting. Repeat layers.

Yield: 16-12 servings.



Cordon Bleu Casserole

Cordon Bleu Casserole

- 2 cups cubed fully cooked ham
- 4 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ⅓ cup butter or margarine
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- ⅛ teaspoon ground mustard
- ⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1¾ cups milk

TOPPING:

- 1½ cups soft bread crumbs
- ½ cup shredded Swiss cheese
- ¼ cup butter or margarine, melted

In a nonstick skillet, sauté ham for 4-5 minutes or until browned; drain and pat dry. In a greased 2-quart baking dish, layer the turkey, cheese and ham; set aside. In a saucepan, sauté the onion in butter until tender. Stir in the flour, mustard and nutmeg until blended. Gradually stir in milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Pour over ham. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over the top. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly.

Yield: 6 servings.

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send \$2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com.



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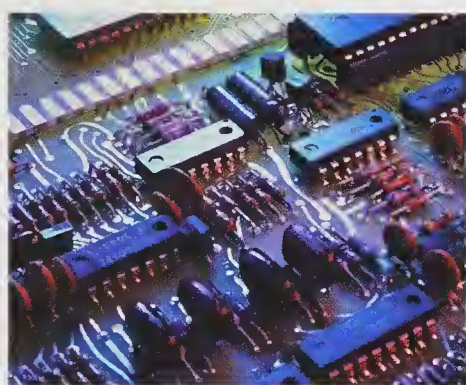
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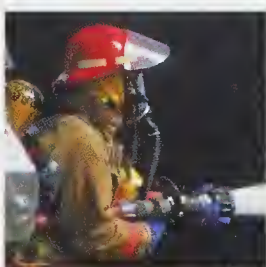
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